

and

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Nov. 12, 1930.

Mr. W.S. Campbell,

Care American Express Company,

Nice, France.

Dear Mr. Campbell:

Custer had 192 enlisted men with him in the detachment which attempted the flanking or heading off movement of the village. You can safely assume that each one had a carbine and a pistol but no sabres and the officers had no sabres although every picture almost of Custer's last stand delights in showing him as waving a sword. I believe it is probable that Lieut. Mathey lugged along a sabre, but I feel quite positive that he was the only one. Lieut. Mathey was very fond of telling the ancient and time honored joke that "the sabre was always loaded". Mathey, of course, was back with Reno. Each officer with Custer must have had at least one pistol, and probably most of them had two, but of that we can never be certain. Custer's men as well as Reno's went into action with a hundred rounds of ammunition either on their persons or partly in their saddle bags. Of course in the detachment with Custer, that is the 192 men, all his one hundred rounds must have been either fired at the Indians or part of it captured in the saddle bags of the stampeded horses but in what proportion it is impossible to say. One thing you should note, the Indians will seldom admit the truth about their losses in killed and wounded. There were many found buried in fresh graves such as the Indians make for their dead, but there were many ^{graves} that were far from the battlefield as discovered by Capt. Ball's twenty mile reconnoissance after Gen. Terry joined Reno.

Reno lost in his retreat from the bottom to the hill thirty enlisted men and scouts and two commissioned officers and one Doctor. It is fair to assume that there were thirty carbines lost in the bottom and thirty pistols and the three officers lost